

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 12 and 20 as follows:

1.-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A replicating *in vitro* cell culture ~~preparation~~ of human embryonic stem cells comprising cells which (i) are capable of proliferation in ~~will proliferate~~ *in vitro* culture for over one year without the application of exogenous leukemia inhibitory factor, (ii) maintain a karyotype in which the chromosomes are euploid through prolonged culture, (iii) maintain the potential to differentiate to derivatives of endoderm, mesoderm, and ectoderm tissues throughout the culture, and (iv) are inhibited from differentiation when cultured on a fibroblast feeder layer.

13. (Original) The preparation of claim 12, wherein the stem cells will spontaneously differentiate to trophoblast and produce chorionic gonadotropin when cultured to high density.

14. – 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The preparation of claim ~~1~~ 12 wherein the cells are negative for the SSEA-1 marker, positive for the SSEA-4 marker, and express alkaline phosphatase.